

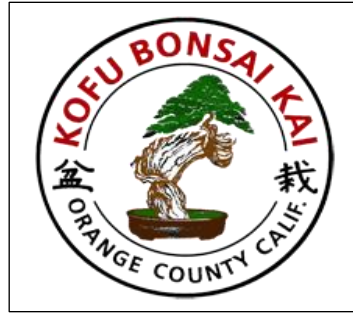
# The Kofu Kai Review

The Monthly Newsletter of the Kofu Bonsai Kai Club

## Meeting Time and Place

March 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim



***Last call, DUES ARE DUE***. Your newsletter will discontinue if you

have not renewed. **Contact Bill Hutchinson at the meeting or when making**

**Annual Dues payments by mail please use these directions:**

**Make Checks out to: KOFU BONSAI KAI**

**\$20 per individual, or \$25 for couples or two persons at one address.**

**Include your Name, Address, Telephone Number, and e-mail address is**

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**MAIL Checks To:**

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**7875 E. Viewmount Court**

**Anaheim, CA 92808**

If you joined during the months of Oct., Nov., or Dec.2013, you are paid for 2014

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# *March Demonstration*

## *Robert Pressler*



Robert Pressler from the Kimura Bonsai Nursery (<http://www.kimurabonsainursery.com/>) in Northridge will be out guest at the March meeting. The art of Bonsai has been in Robert's life as early as 10 years old. He became interested in it after his mother took him on a day trip to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York. Even as a child he would take day trips from New Jersey to New York to observe the Masters there, at work. He moved to California and in 1983 he started going to the Yamaguchi Nursery to continue his education in the art. He currently runs his own nursery at 17230 Roscoe Blvd, Northridge.

Robert will demonstrate the proper way to transplant a bonsai tree. He will show proper root pruning and placement of the tree within a pot; as well as talk a little bit about pot selection.

Please join us in welcoming Robert Pressler to the Kofu Kai Bonsai Club.

Ron Reekers

## February Demonstration

### Harry Hirao



February's demonstration was conducted by Sensei Harry Hirao, founder of Kofu Bonsai Kai Club, otherwise known as "Mister California Juniper". Master Harry brought in a collected California Juniper which was ripe for shaping. He was assisted by two of his long time students, and Masters in their own right, David Nguy and Mel Ikeda, so this was a real treat for the club members to see three great Bonsai Artists in action.

After getting instruction from Harry, Mel and David began working on reducing and carving out the deadwood. Good 'Jin' work will give the final product a sense of time and wear, thereby enhancing the feeling of age in the final tree. After clarifying the 'Jin' there is the problem of bringing the foliage down. David Nguy has great skill in doing this technique, so with Mel's help they removed the live vein from the deadwood, reinforced the branch with a large #5 aluminum wire spine and wrapped it in raffia. This is a process that deserves a lot more explanation than this article, but suffice it to say that applying this to the branch helps reduce the likelihood that it will break while it is pulled down into place. It is actually a very thrilling and impressive thing to see this kind of extreme technique, and even more exciting

to try it yourself. The room was silent as everyone held their collective breath during the bending process and, to everyone's relief no large cracking sound was heard, therefore the branch placement is assumed successful.

Deciding what the front is was key to the shaping of the tree. All branches were wired and with Harry's instruction were strategically placed to create fullness and balance from the front perspective. In a few years the tree in a "finished" state will be quite beautiful and a treasure to the owner.

The demo took most of the night; it is amazing how much work was done. Manny Martinez did a lot of the explanations of what was taking place, and Mel had a few stories to tell about his history with Harry, collecting and general repartee. After the completion of the shaping process a general discussion of the front and future shape was explained by David, then the tree was raffled off (darn..I didn't win it!)

Ron Reekers

### DEMONSTRATION PRIZE WINNER



Right side  
Abraham Haary

*Badge prize Winner*  
*Wanda Danesi*

*NEW MEMBERS WELCOME*  
*Ginger Ragazzi, Joe Galgoul, Nick Latimer*

**KOFU BONSAI KAI - BONSAI IDEAS**

**BY MARTY MANN**

**MARCH (#68)**

Plan your repotting activity. Now is the time, before the trees awaken. Take this opportunity to change from training pots or oversized pots to appropriate display pots more suitable to the finished bonsai. Determine the size, shape, color and style to complement your tree. If you see an appropriate pot at a nursery or bazaars, buy it when you see it.

A bonsai, to be ready for repotting, should be somewhat dry. This facilitates removal from a tight pot. Unwind twisted roots that have circled the outer rim and free them of hardened or compacted soil. Usually, with deciduous or conifers, it's best to cut about 1/3 of the root ball away as the roots are freed. Trim to reduce the ball to fit into its new pot. Keep fine roots sprayed. Don't allow them to dry. Cut away heavy old roots.

When repotting, it's a good time to reposition the tree if it is required. Change the height, adjust the trunk angle, add more potting soil around the root ball, and work it in with your chopstick to fill in as many air pockets as possible. Remember to slope your surface slightly from the trunk to the lip of the pot. Leave an indentation along the rim of the pot to prevent water run-off. A good soaking removes destructive air pockets. Repotted material may be placed in semi-shade for a week or so. Don't water heavily. Introduce the tree back to full light and warmth to encourage root and bud growth to begin. Don't feed for 4 to 5 weeks. March can be capricious months--ranging from cool to hot. Don't encourage too much quick growth since this creates unsightly long internodes and large leaves. Pay particular attention to fruiting and flowering trees. If they have been too active in directing their energy into flowers and buds then some pinching back can help them pay attention to leaves and woody branching.

Repotting activity should be regulated. Know when and what has been done to each tree. Plan your activity around a review of this generalized schedule of repotting as follows:

Young trees, less than 5 years old--repot every 1-2-3 years, depending upon growth and needs. Be sure you have strong root development before you repot young trees.

Somewhat older trees, 5 to 20 years old--repot every 2-3-4 years. Check the root ball for good health.

Very old trees, 20 or more years --repot every 4-5-6 years, depending upon the condition of the tree. Review species habits. Some like to be crowded and may not need to be repotted.

Fertilization programs can resume. Don't feed newly potted material too soon. Fast growth causes long internodes and large leaves. Keep nitrogen content low for the first month or so as the plant comes out of dormancy. If the new growth is too active, keep it pinched. Whenever a new set of leaves appears, pinch back on the center set. If your objective is to improve twiggy-ness on Elm, Zelcova, Maples, etc. cut new internodes to two sets of leaves. Pinch new evergreen growth to encourage density. Don't pinch fruiting or flowering trees such as bougainvilleas, pomegranates, ume, crabapples, quince or azaleas. Early spring pinching removes the forming flower and fruit buds.

Insects come back to life with the arrival of steady warmth. Start with Malathion to attack most predators but don't overlook Seven or Isotox if signs of chewing damage show on your leaves. Spray well into the interior of the tree and onto the undersides of the leaves. Sucking insects such as scale, aphids, white flies, mealy bugs and mites require a systemic action in the pesticide you use. Watch for fungus. Use ORTHO GARDEN & DISEASE CONTROL I to kill mildew. Spray on warm, dry days. Mid-morning is best to allow the spray material to dry onto the plant surfaces. Avoid watering until the sprays can be effective.

HAIKU POEM:

Bonsai will show pride  
The joy of your creation  
Your care will protect

By Marty Mann

<p>This article has been extracted from the recently published book called ' Bonsai Ideas'.© By Marty Mann. Material is not to be copied without publisher or author's permission March -2011</p>
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## ***UP COMING EVENTS***

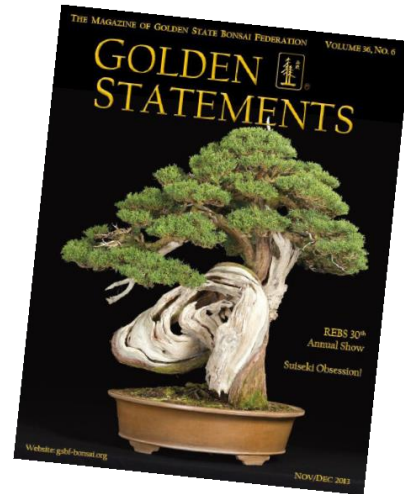
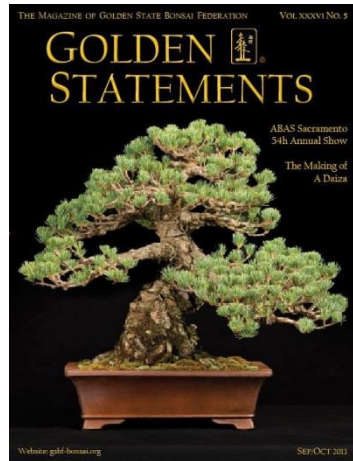
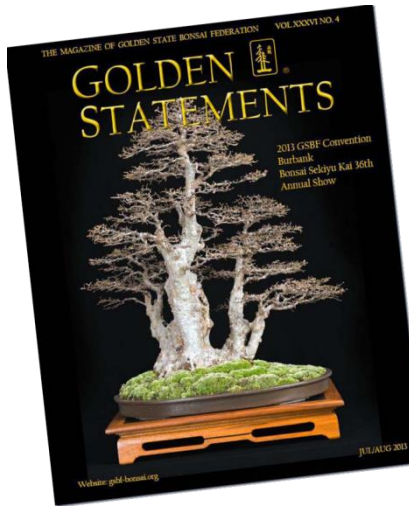
### **March 29-30, 2014: [California Bonsai Society Annual Show](#)**

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. in the Botanical Center, 10am to 4pm daily.

**April 24 – 27 2014, Costa Mesa, California Orange County Bonsai Society: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Show**, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St. Display of trees in the traditional Japanese style. Bonsai and accent plant demonstration by in house Masters. The Spring Garden Show is a diverse and outstanding selection of unusual and exotic plants, garden tools, garden ornaments and art, competition gardens and children's programs. Free admission and parking! For more information, visit [www.springgardenshow.com](http://www.springgardenshow.com) or contact David Nadzam at (714) 345-6966 or [dnadzam@socal.rr.com](mailto:dnadzam@socal.rr.com).

**April 26 – 27, San Diego Bonsai Club**, Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado #101, 10am to 5pm. Bonsai Show and sale. Demonstrations daily 11am to 1pm. For additional information visit [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

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## **Special Thank You**

### **December Refreshments:**

Harry Hirao  
Delia Espinoza  
May McNey  
Nancy Reekers  
Justine Keller  
Dee Fann  
Bob & Kim Warner  
David & June Nguy  
Tish Miya  
Wendy Tsai  
Gary Lai

### **Raffle Donations:**

David & June Nguy  
Dave Miles  
Joe Szabo  
Heidi Park  
Anthony Chiusolo  
Kaz Hosozawa  
Dee Fann  
Harry Hirao  
Bill & Lois Hutchinson  
Manuel & Cheryl Martinez

## **PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP**

**Beginners, looking to get started!**

**Looking to improve your bonsai artistry and technique! Preparing your trees for exhibition! Wondering how to get started in Bonsai and have questions? Have a tree that is "difficult" to style and you may not know what to do. Questions on preparing your tree or displaying it at the Annual Show? No matter what your objectives are, you can bring your trees to work on at the pre-meeting workshop where experienced members will assist and advise. Meet from 4:00pm -6:00pm prior to the monthly meeting.**